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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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March 6, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – FRED
JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOME FOR BOYS, INCORPORATED -
DENKER AVENUE GROUP HOME AND COMPTON GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Denker Avenue and Compton Group Homes operated by Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Denker Avenue and Compton Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 14-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Denker Avenue Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children. Compton Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children.

Denker Avenue and Compton Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to accept children in accordance with their population criteria, include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans, maintain current and comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals, and maintain documentation that shows all children are receiving treatment services as identified in the Needs and Services Plans.

Denker Avenue Group Home needs to repair the cement walkway, repair the stucco, and paint the exterior of the home; replace window frames, and repair or replace bathroom tiles, the bathtub, and kitchen countertops; clean the windows, bathroom floor, kitchen sink, and the ceiling fan lights in bedrooms two and three; maintain current authorizations for children taking psychotropic medication and ensure that children taking psychotropic medication are routinely evaluated by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Compton Group Home needs to clean the shower, clean and repair or replace the heater grate, and clean the carpet in bedroom three.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

Board of Supervisors

March 6, 2007

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If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jh

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Cecelia Jefferson Freeman, Executive Director, Fred Jefferson Memorial Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys
Denker Avenue Group Home
9156 South Denker Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90047
Phone: (323) 820-1900
License Number: 198201547
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Denker Avenue Group Home is located in a residential community. The front and back yards are adequately landscaped. However, the exterior of the Group Home is not well maintained. The exterior paint, stucco, and trim are cracked and peeling. The cement walkway in the rear of the house is cracked and broken.

There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the interior of the Group Home is not well maintained. The window frames in the living room are deteriorated, two of the windows do not open, and several of the glass panes have paint on them. In the bathroom, the tub is discolored, the floor behind the toilet is dirty, and tiles around the sink are cracked or missing. In the kitchen, the countertops are worn and stained, and the grout around the sink has mold and mildew.

Overall, the children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, in bedrooms two and three, the ceiling fan lights are dirty. In bedroom three, the window sill is dirty.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys Group Home management:**
 - a. Repair and paint the exterior of the Group Home.**
 - b. Repair the cement walkway.**

- c. Replace the window frames in the living room.
- d. Repair the windows in the living room.
- e. Remove the paint from the window panes in the living room.
- f. Repair or replace the bathtub.
- g. Clean the bathroom floor.
- h. Repair or replace the bathroom sink tiles.
- i. Repair or replace the kitchen countertops.
- j. Clean the grout around the kitchen sink.
- k. Clean the fan lights in bedrooms two and three.
- l. Clean the window sill in bedroom three.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement. However, one child does not meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in the Program Statement.

The treatment team and input from the child is not included in the development or implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are not current, comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files do not reflect documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management:

- a. Accept children according to the population criteria as outlined in the Program Statement.

- b. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- c. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans.
- d. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals.
- e. Maintain documentation that shows all children are receiving treatment services as identified in the Needs and Services Plans.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children do not have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medication they are taking. There is no documentation to confirm that one child taking psychotropic medication is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

3. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management:

- a. **Maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.**
- b. **Maintain documentation to show that all children taking psychotropic medication are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. The children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys
Compton Group Home
1000 West 152nd Street
Compton, California 90220
Phone: (310) 609-1166
License Number: 198200050
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Compton Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. Common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the shower enclosure has mold and mildew and the heater grate is dusty and bent.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. The window screens and window coverings are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the carpet in bedroom three is heavily stained.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management:

- a. Clean the shower.**
- b. Clean and repair or replace the heater grate.**
- c. Clean the carpet in bedroom three.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement. However, one child does not meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in the Program Statement.

The treatment team and input from the child is not included in the development or implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are not current, comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files do not reflect documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management:

- a. Accept children according to the population criteria as outlined in the Program Statement.**
- b. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- c. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans.**
- d. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals.**
- e. Maintain documentation that shows all children are receiving treatment services as identified in the Needs and Services Plans.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and

resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. The children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

***Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys
1330 S. Long Beach Blvd.
Compton, Ca. 90221***



Phone # (310) 763-1660

Fax # (310) 763-0357

January 9, 2007

Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor
Department of Auditor-Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Rhue,

Please find attached the Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys Corrective Action Plan in response to the audit report dated June 13, 2006.

If you need additional information please feel free to call me at 310.763.1660 x. 121.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cecilia Jefferson Freeman, Ph.D.
CEO

Where Children Come First!

COMPTON GROUP HOME

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

THE SHOWER HAS BEEN CLEANED. THE CARPET IN BEDROOM THREE HAS BEEN SHAMPOOED. THE HEATER WILL BE REPLACED BY JULY 31, 2006. THE FACILITY MANAGER WILL ENSURE THAT THE FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT WILL BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES. THE ADMINISTRATOR WILL MONITOR THE FACILITY MANAGER AND ENSURE THAT THE FACILITY IS ALWAYS MAINTAINED APPROPRIATELY.

DENKER AVENUE GROUP HOME

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

THE FRED JEFFERSON GROUP HOME ADMINISTRATION HAS MET WITH THE LANDLORD AND ALL THE REPAIRS WILL BE DONE BY THE GROUP HOME AND SOME THINGS WILL BE REIMBURSED BY THE LANDLORD. ALL OF THE REPAIRS WILL BE FINISHED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2006. THE FACILITY MANAGER WILL OVERSEE THE REPAIRS AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE GROUP HOME AND ENSURE THAT ALL REPAIRS ARE DONE IN A TIMELY MANNER. THE ADMINISTRATOR WILL MONITOR THAT THIS CORRECTION IS IMPLEMENTED AND MAINTAINED.

Fred Jefferson Memorial Foster Family Agency
1330 South Long Beach Blvd
Compton, California 90221

Ph# (310) 763-1660

Fax# (310) 763-0357

DENKER AVENUE GROUP HOME

THE FOLLOWING REPAIRS WERE COMPLETED AS FOLLOWS;

- A. REPAIR AND PAINT THE EXTERIOR OF THE GROUP HOME 08/21/06
- B. REPAIR CEMENT WALKWAY 08/30/06
- C. REPLACE THE DETERIORATED WINDOW FRAMES IN LIVING ROOM
09/11/06
- D. REPAIR WINDOWS THAT DO NOT OPEN 08/21/06
- E. REMOVE THE PAINT FROM THE WINDOW PANES IN LIVING ROOM
08/21/06
- F. REMOVE THE DISCOLORATION FROM THE BATHTUB 05/26/06
- G. CLEAN THE FLOOR BEHIND THE TOILET 05/23/06
- H. REPAIR THE CRACKED AND MISSING TILES AROUND THE
BATHROOM SINK 09/06/06 REPLACED WITH SINK AND CABINET
- I. REPLACE WORN AND STAINED KITCHEN COUNTER TOPS 09/06/06
REPLACED ENTIRE COUNTER TOP
- J. CLEAN MOLD AND MILDEW FROM THE GROUT AROUND KITCHEN
SINK. 09/06/06
- K. CLEAN THE FAN LIGHTS IN BEDROOMS TWO AND THREE 05/24/06
- L. CLEAN THE WINDOWSILL IN BEDROOM THREE 05/24/06

The clinical director is the treatment team leader and responsible for development of comprehensive NSPs which include short term and long term goals.

Person Monitoring

The administrator will be responsible for monitoring the NSPs procedure, completion, and follow-ups.

2e. Provide all children with treatment services.

All children at FJM Group Homes will receive treatment services. The children will receive thorough assessments including review of historical data e.g. behavior, placements, clinical interventions, childhood trauma, and any other assessment needed to service the needs of the resident. Treatment services will be tailored to meet individual needs of each child to address individual needs such as gang prevention, sexual issues, predatory behavior, ADHD, truancy, learning disabilities, etc. All children are required to participate on a weekly basis individual therapy, group therapy, and tutoring. Psychiatric assessments are provided to children on an as needed basis. Group home clinicians review all information regarding psychiatric referrals provided by group home staff, educators, resource professionals, parents, and all authorized representatives. Psychotropic medication therapy is determined appropriate or inappropriate by the group home psychiatrist.

Tutoring is provided by Los Unified School District twice a week for the residents. Other therapeutic services included substance abuse groups, emancipation and independent living skills training groups, recreational services, and other specialized services provided as determined by the treatment team. Documentation of these services are readily available in each resident file.

Person Responsible

The group home psychiatrist is responsible for all psychiatric services. The clinical director is responsible for implementation of all other services.

Person Monitoring

The group home administrator is responsible for monitoring of all services provided for treatment for residents in the group home.

3a. Obtain court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications.

FJM group homes will ensure that the psychiatrist properly completes and submit according to DCFS/Juvenile Court regulations the appropriate forms for request court authorization for children who are prescribed psychotropic medication. The request will be submitted in a timely manner. The authorizations will be obtained from the court, logged in, and filed in resident's folder prior to dispensing and distributing

psychotropic medication unless an “emergency” is indicated and justified on the authorization form.

Person Responsible

The psychiatrist will ensure that the court authorizations are done properly and in a timely manner.

Person Monitoring

The group home administrator will monitor this process.

3b. Maintain documentation to show that all children taking psychotropic medications are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

FJM group homes will maintain a detailed log for medication dispensing and psychiatric notes.

These logs are maintained with the resident’s files. The psychiatrist visits each child taking medication a minimum of 1-2 times per month. The psychiatrist documents all pertinent information including when seen, general impressions, and medication monitoring every time each child is seen.

Person Responsible

The group home psychiatrist is responsible for psychotropic medication procedures and documentation.

Person Monitoring

The group home administrator will be monitoring this process.